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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/131 of 17 December 1999 entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity". It provides an overview of progress made in implementing that resolution. It should be read in conjunction with the report of the Executive Director on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (E/CN.15/2000/2), submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth session. The present report updates the information contained in that report.

2. Other related documents before the fifty-fifth session of the Assembly are: (a) the report of the Secretary-General on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/55/156); (b) the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century,[1] adopted by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; and (c) the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto.

II. Progress in implementing the reform measures

3. Under the leadership of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP), further advance has been made in reinforcing the reform measures in the work of the Organization for combating the uncivil elements of society and in achieving synergy of action in fighting crime and drug abuse. The United Nations Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice now benefits from increased synergies and consolidation of tasks within ODCCP, both at headquarters and at the field level. It continues to seek to focus its resources and activities on those areas where the United Nations possesses comparative advantages and can provide added value, most notably in facilitating and coordinating international cooperation in combating transnational forms of crime.

4. Consequently, as can be noted from this report, further progress has been made in strengthening its operational engagement, especially under the ambit of the global programmes against corruption, trafficking in human beings and transnational organized crime. At the same time, effective secretariat support continues to be provided to the global policy forum function in crime and justice issues and for the elaboration of international legal instruments. In pursuit of a balanced approach and to the extent resources permitted, in addition to dealing with new global priorities, the programme also continued to address traditional concerns and issues in crime and justice; provide ad hoc technical assistance in those areas; promote the use and application of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice; collect, analyse and disseminate information; foster the application of new information technologies in crime and justice matters; and support global policy formulation through the servicing of intergovernmental bodies and meetings.

5. These measures have led to greater donor confidence in the programme, as evidenced through the increased voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. This, in turn, enabled the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme to expand its operational activities. Increased contributions also enabled the recruitment of a few new staff members who possess the relevant substantive expertise in the priority areas. Special attention was given in the recruitment effort to the goals, as set by the Organization, of achieving gender balance and equitable geographical distribution. As a result, 9 of the 11 Professional staff recruited were women, 5 of them from developing countries.

6. There are several basic requirements to sustain and build upon the progress made in the past few years. These include: (a) action by the intergovernmental bodies to reinforce the process of focusing the activities of the programme on a limited number of priority areas of engagement; (b) continuing the effort to match the mandates and resources of the programme by limiting new mandates and increasing regular budget allocations; and (c) increasing considerably the voluntary contributions for the activities of the programme.

III. Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

7. The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was held in Vienna, Austria, from 10 to 17 April 2000. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/110 of 9 December 1998, the Tenth Congress elaborated a single declaration, containing its recommendations, entitled the "Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century". Pursuant to Assembly resolution 54/125 of 17 December 1999, the Declaration is submitted to the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations for consideration and action. Further details on the proceedings of the Tenth Congress are contained in its report.

IV. Ninth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

8. The ninth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Vienna from 18 to 20 April 2000. The prominent theme for the session was the results of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. At the session, the Commission recommended the adoption of three draft resolutions by the General Assembly as well as two draft resolutions and one draft decision by the Economic and Social Council. The report of the session[2] contains the text of those draft resolutions and of the draft decision and details of the deliberations of the Commission.

V. Progress towards a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto

9. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, established pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/111 and 53/114, both of 9 December 1998, began its work in January 1999, with the objective of completing its tasks by the year 2000. The Ad Hoc Committee has made significant progress in elaborating the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three additional international legal instruments addressing illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition; smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea; and trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

10. The Ad Hoc Committee held six sessions in 1999 and three sessions in 2000, until 30 June 2000. Its tenth and eleventh sessions are scheduled to be held from 17 to 28 July and 2 to 27 October 2000, respectively. Document A/AC.254/30-E/CN.15/2000/4 contains the progress report of the Ad Hoc Committee submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth session. That report covers the work of the Ad Hoc Committee until its eighth session. Document A/AC.254/31 contains the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its ninth session. All relevant documentation, including the successive draft texts of the convention and the protocols, are electronically accessible at www.uncjin.org.

11. In its resolution 54/126 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to intensify its work in order to complete it in 2000. The Assembly also decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should submit the final text of the Convention and protocols thereto to the Assembly for early adoption prior to a high-level signing conference.

12. In its resolution 54/129 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Italy to host a High-level Political Signing Conference at Palermo for the purpose of signing the Convention and protocols thereto and requested the Secretary-General to schedule the Signing Conference for a period of up to one week before the end of the Millennium Assembly in 2000. The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention is working closely with the Government of Italy to finalize arrangements for the Signing Conference at Palermo.

13. In order to facilitate the completion of its mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to hold informal consultation meetings parallel to the plenary meetings, beginning with its fifth session. It also decided to devote its tenth session (17-28 July 2000) to the finalization and approval of the draft convention and to hold an eleventh session (2-27 October 2000) for the consideration of the protocols.

14. In its resolution 54/127 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, from within existing or extrabudgetary resources, to convene an expert group of no more than 20 members with equitable geographical representation, to prepare a study on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives by criminals and their use for criminal purposes. The Assembly also directed the Ad Hoc Committee, following the completion of the study, to consider the possible elaboration of an international instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives. The Centre for International Crime Prevention has contacted member States regarding the convening of the expert group and, to date, one country has pledged voluntary contribution for that purpose.

15. An Asia-Pacific Ministerial Seminar on Building Capacities for Fighting Transnational Organized Crime was organized jointly by the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the Royal Thai Government, in Bangkok, on 20 and 21 March 2000. The Seminar was attended by representatives from 20 countries from the subregion. The participants issued a joint ministerial statement in which they declared the firm political will and determination to combat transnational crime through all possible measures and to strengthen national policies and enhance regional cooperation for that purpose. The joint ministerial statement and the report of the Seminar were presented to the Ad Hoc Committee. It was also informed of an Ad Hoc High-Level Experts Meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the draft Convention (Bangkok, 22-24 May 2000), held as a follow-up to the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Seminar.

16. The Centre also organized a Central Asian Seminar on Transnational Organized Crime, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 22 and 23 March 2000, which aimed at advancing the technical knowledge of the countries on the various aspects of the Convention and its protocols as well as help them in preparing for implementing these instruments.

VI. Initiating the elaboration of an international instrument against corruption

17. The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/128 of 17 December 1999, requested the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to explore the desirability of an international instrument against corruption, either ancillary to or independent of the Convention, to be developed after the finalization of the Convention and the three additional instruments referred to in Assembly resolution 53/111, and to present its views to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth session.

18. The Ad Hoc Committee, at its seventh session, expressed the view that an effective international legal instrument against corruption was desirable. It agreed that such an international instrument should be independent of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and that its drafting should commence following the completion of the negotiations on that draft Convention and the draft protocols thereto. The Ad Hoc Committee was of the view that the terms of reference and outline of scope of the new instrument should be based on sound preparatory work, which would include a thorough review and analysis of all relevant international instruments and recommendations. The analysis should be undertaken by the Secretariat in consultation with member States and should be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its tenth session.

19. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its ninth session, recommended to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "An effective international legal instrument against corruption".[3] In that draft resolution, the Assembly would recognize that an effective international legal instrument against corruption, independent of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, was desirable. It would decide to start the elaboration of such an instrument in Vienna at the headquarters of the Centre for International Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat. It would request the Secretary-General to prepare a report analysing all relevant international legal instruments, other documents and recommendations addressing corruption, and to submit it to the Commission at an inter-sessional session and review by the Commission at its tenth session. It would also request the Secretary-General to convene, upon completion of the negotiation

of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, an intergovernmental open-ended expert group to examine and prepare, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General and of the recommendations of the Commission at its tenth session, draft terms of reference for the negotiation of the future legal instrument against corruption. It would decide to establish an ad hoc committee for the negotiation of such an instrument to start its work in Vienna as soon as the draft terms of reference for such negotiation were adopted.

VII. Technical cooperation

A. Overview

20. As already noted, the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme continued to benefit from increased synergies between the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the two pillars of ODCCP. At the same time, both these entities maintained their separate identities. This closer cooperation resulted in a greater number of joint missions and the formulation of joint projects in Guatemala, Central Asia, South Africa and the Russian Federation. The capacity of the Centre to deliver technical cooperation has also been enhanced through the placement of CICP field staff and the consequent conversion of UNDCP field offices into ODCCP field offices. At present, ODCCP has regional offices in Moscow, which covers the Russian Federation and Belarus; in Pretoria, which covers Southern Africa; in Tashkent, which covers Central Asia; and in Cairo, which covers North Africa and the Middle East.

21. At 30 June 2000, the total value of the Centre's ongoing technical cooperation projects amounted to US$ 5,355,838. These projects are listed in table 1 below. Further details on them are contained in the following sections.

Table 1
Technical cooperation projects supported by the Centre for International Crime Prevention in 2000

Country or region	*Project*	*Total budget (United States dollars)*	*Role of the Centre*
Hungary	Assessment of corruption in Hungary	175 263	Funding and executing agency
Lebanon	Support to the national anti-corruption strategy	304 309	Funding and executing agency
	Strengthening the legislative and institutional capacity for juvenile justice	806 594	Funding and executing agency
Philippines	Coalitions against trafficking in human beings	219 231	Funding and executing agency
Romania	Institution-building and strengthening of corruption control capacity	325 000	Funding and executing agency
Russian Federation	Control and prevention of drugs and related organized crime	1 370 841	UNDCP project. CICP acts as cooperating agency
South Africa	Mechanism to counteract domestic violence	660 000	Funding and associate agency
	Measures to counteract organized crime	414 000	Funding and cooperating agency
	Capacity-building in the area of youth justice	628 000	UNDP project. CICP acts as cooperating agency
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Preventing and controlling economic and financial crime	300 000	Funding and executing agency
Global	United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Survey	152 600	Executing agency
Total		**5 355 838**	

22. As described in the report of the Executive Director on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (E/CN.15/2000/2), the technical cooperation activities have been focused on the implementation of the global programmes against corruption, trafficking in human beings and organized crime, initiated and implemented jointly with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). A brief overview of these programmes and their technical cooperation activities is provided below (for further details, see also E/CN.15/2000/2).

B. Global programme against corruption

23. Progress has been made in implementing the global programme against corruption, which seeks to help countries to help themselves to fight corruption. The overarching aims of the programme are to analyse global trends in corruption and to identify and field-test best practices, with a view to contributing to the preparation of an international legal instrument. This is to be realized through designing and carrying out assessments, developing and pilot testing anti-corruption tools and identifying and promoting best practices.

24. An expert group meeting was held (Vienna, 13 and 14 April 2000) to review and strengthen an anti-corruption tool kit, which contains some 30 measures in the areas of prevention, institution-building, enforcement and awareness-raising. Based on the outcome of the meeting, the tool kit is being revised and will contain practical measures that can be incorporated into technical cooperation projects. Ongoing dialogue on the tool kit development has been achieved through the establishment of an Internet-based network of the experts.

25. Technical cooperation projects, which aim at assisting the respective Governments in their effort to fight corruption, are currently being implemented in Hungary, Lebanon and Romania. Assessment missions have been undertaken to Benin, South Africa, Nigeria, Nicaragua and Uganda and pilot projects are being finalized for implementation in these countries. Funding for these projects and other activities of the global programme are being provided by France, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States of America.

26. The project in Hungary entails a comprehensive assessment of corruption and the efforts of the Government to prevent it and the design of a monitoring mechanism for public sector contracts and international transactions. The project in Lebanon provides support to the Government in the review of its anti-corruption legislation and the training of the institutional anti-corruption network. The project in Romania provides technical assistance in drafting more effective anti-corruption legislation and in improving the skills and capacities of the judiciary and law enforcement personnel through training programmes and study tours. The project in Uganda, currently being finalized, would aim at strengthening governmental institutions fighting corruption by providing them with the necessary legal and practical tools and at enhancing the public's trust in the various branches of the criminal justice system. The project in South Africa foresees a country assessment of the corruption situation; promoting transparent and accountable public sector contracts and international commercial transactions; providing advice on best practice in curbing corruption; providing integrity-training for criminal justice officials; strengthening anti-corruption bodies; and introducing a credible complaints mechanism. A project currently being elaborated with the Government of Benin will focus on increasing governmental and non-governmental actors' awareness of corruption; strengthening the legal and institutional framework for combating corruption; and supporting the Government in developing a national anti-corruption action plan.

27. In collaboration with Transparency International, the Centre organized a meeting of chief justices on the global programme's component element of "strengthening of judicial integrity". The meeting was attended by eight chief justices and senior judges from Africa and Asia with a proved commitment to addressing judicial integrity. It provided valuable input regarding the further elaboration and implementation of this element. Measures agreed upon by the meeting include the development of a survey instrument to assess the level of judicial integrity in countries participating in this aspect of the global programme; the collection and dissemination of "best practices" in combating judicial corruption; and the preparation of an analytical report on existing judicial codes of conduct. It is expected that the survey instrument would be first tested in the Karnataka State of India.

28. In addition to collaborating with UNICRI, the Centre continues to collaborate closely with several other concerned actors in refining and implementing the global programme against corruption. These include the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the European Commission, Transparency International, Interpol, Gallop International and the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD).

C. Global programme against trafficking in human beings

29. The Centre has advanced the implementation of the global programme against trafficking in human beings, in close cooperation with UNICRI. The global programme aims at enabling countries of origin, transit and destination to develop joint strategies and practical actions against trafficking in human beings. It will contribute to empowering donor and recipient countries to address a common problem in a manner that transcends a purely bilateral approach, recognizing that, given the transnational character of trafficking in human beings, effective and efficient criminal justice-related responses can be developed only through international cooperation. The programme will help countries to prepare for the implementation of the protocols of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that address trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

30. The global programme consists of an integral package of assessment, technical cooperation, evaluation, and the eventual formulation of an international strategy against trafficking in human beings. In addition to an in-depth assessment of trafficking trends, a key feature is a series of technical cooperation projects. Such projects are currently being carried out or formulated in countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. These projects will also help to test the effectiveness of anti-trafficking measures to be included in a global strategy against this criminal activity. Project activities to be carried out in cooperation with the national counterparts are based on an analysis of the involvement of organized crime in the trafficking of human beings. A database containing best practices will be established so that the collected information can be used by policy makers, practitioners, researchers and non-governmental organizations.

31. The first technical cooperation project was initiated in the Philippines with funding from the United States of America and an in-kind contribution by the Australian Institute of Criminology. The project has established a national inter-agency mechanism to coordinate the activities of various national agencies that address aspects of trafficking. Information on the involvement of organized crime groups in trafficking of persons is being collected on the basis of a questionnaire developed by UNICRI.

32. Another project has been started in Eastern Europe, covering the Czech Republic and Poland, with the partial financial support of the European Commission and the Governments of Austria, Liechtenstein and the Netherlands. Austria, Finland, Germany and the Netherlands are participating in the project as partner countries.

33. A project that will cover the Latin American region is being developed, for which two missions have been undertaken to Brazil. One of its key objectives will be to assess routes and modalities used by organized crime groups to traffic human beings. Jointly with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Centre is seeking funding for project activities to support victims of trafficking and to improve the law enforcement response against traffickers. The Government of Portugal has provided partial funding to this project.

34. A project that will cover the West African region is also being formulated. It aims at assessing trafficking flows and countermeasures in Benin, Nigeria and Togo and at supporting Governments in their efforts to combat the disappearance of children, who are believed to be sold by traffickers as slave labour. Funding for the project has been pledged by the Governments of Canada, France and Norway.

35. In planning and implementing the global programme against trafficking in human beings, the Centre continued its cooperation with other international and regional organizations, including UNICEF, UNIFEM, the European Union (EU), Interpol, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as well as international

and national non-governmental organizations, local institutions and experts.

D. Global studies on transnational organized crime

36. Progress has been made in carrying out the global studies on transnational organized crime, which aim at assessing transnational organized crime groups worldwide according to their level of dangerousness. The studies, implemented by the Centre and UNICRI, will provide member States and the international community with reliable information and analysis on the major and emerging trends in this field. It will also enable the Centre to assist requesting countries in the formulation of policies and guidelines on suitable strategies to prevent and combat transnational organized crime at national, regional and international levels.

37. The implementation of the first phase of the studies has been well advanced. The first phase consists of a pilot survey on the most dangerous organized crime groups active in 12 countries (Australia, Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America) and 1 region (the Caribbean). Information on the most prominent transnational organized crime group active in each of these 13 countries/region has been collected. Data on other relevant groups and specific criminal markets are currently being gathered through a network of data providers. This pilot survey tests the usefulness of the research and analytical tools developed by the Centre for the assessment of organized crime. A report containing the preliminary results of the survey is being finalized.

38. In order to achieve a broader global coverage, the survey will be extended into a second phase, when it will cover five countries from Central and Eastern Europe (Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Ukraine) and additional countries, to be determined, from the Latin American, South-East Asian and the Asia-Pacific regions.

39. Within the framework of the global studies on transnational organized crime, the Centre, in cooperation with UNICRI, has formulated a project aimed at analysing and assessing the threat posed by Nigerian criminal networks active in four countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. Through the analysis of the strategies and activities carried out by these organized crime groups, the project will evaluate their impact at national and regional levels, forecast their possible future trends and suggest concrete countermeasures to prevent and combat organized crime in the region. The implementation of the project is expected to start during the second half of 2000.

40. Another project is being formulated that aims at analysing and assessing transnational organized crime in five Central Asian states: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The project will focus on the identification and mapping of the most relevant criminal networks operating in the region; the analysis of their activities, strategies, organizational structure and transnational connections; and the evaluation of the countermeasures adopted by Governments. It is hoped that funding will become available so that the project can be implemented during 2001.

E. Other technical cooperation activities

41. In addition to the technical cooperation activities within the framework of the global programmes, the Centre has been developing and implementing projects in other areas of crime prevention and criminal justice. In Lebanon, a project to strengthen the legislative and institutional capacity of the juvenile justice system is being implemented, funded by Switzerland and the Netherlands. Another juvenile justice project, emphasizing the use of alternative measures to imprisonment, has been designed for Guatemala. Three projects are under implementation in South Africa, focusing on: juvenile justice (funded by UNDP); counteracting domestic violence (funded by Austria) and counteracting organized and commercial crime (funded by the United States). A project to combat economic and financial crime in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, funded by Italy, would commence in July 2000. A project to support the establishment of a unified data bank, and assess the situation of and enhance cooperation in the combat against organized crime among the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Russian Federation has been formulated and

presented to the donor community. A prison reform project has been designed for the Caribbean region for which funding is expected from the European Commission. A project on crime prevention in Senegal has also been formulated and submitted to the donor community.

VIII. Resource mobilization

42. The contributions and pledges made to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund during 1999 and until 30 June 2000 are listed in table 2 below.

Table 2
Contributions and pledges to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund during 1999 and 2000, as at 30 June 2000
(United States dollars)

	1999			*2000*		
	General purpose	*Special purpose*	*Total*	*General purpose*	*Special purpose*	*Total*
Australia	10 000[b]	-	10 000	-	-	-
Austria	381 127[b]	188 628[b]	569 755	59 908[b]	-	59 908
Canada	-	-	-	-	27 027[b]	27 027
Chile	-	-	-	10 000[b]	-	10 000
France	-	479 000[c]	479 000	-	-	-
Greece	-	-	-	30 000[b]	-	30 000
Israel	-	-	-	10 500[b]	-	10 500
Italy	133 400[b]	159 292[b]	292 692	-	-	-
Japan	-	300 000[b]	300 000	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	364 165[b]	364 165	-	329 468[a]	329 468
Norway	-	13 043[b]	13 043	-	300 946[c]	300 946
Poland	-	19 726[b]	19 726	-	-	-
Portugal	-	100 000[b]	100 000	-	-	-
Republic of Korea	12 991[b]	-	12 991	-	-	-
Turkey	50 000[a]	-	50 000	75 000	-	75 000
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	30 000[b]	30 000
United States of America	50 000[b]	915 000[c]	965 000	-	750 000[a]	750 000
European Union	-	135 000[a]	135 000	-	-	-
Asia Crime Prevention Foundation	-	9 397[b]	9 397	-	-	-
International Police Association	-	-	-	6 003[b]	-	6 003
Other donations[d]	10 496[a]	-	10 496	5 881[a]	3 058	8 939
Total	**648 014**	**2 683 251**	**3 331 265**	**197 292**	**1 440 499**	**1 637 791**

[a] Pledged.
[b] Paid.
[c] Partially paid.
[d] Pledges and contributions of less than US$ 5,000 from Governments and others.

43. The contributions and pledges in 2000, as at 30 June, amounted to US$ 1,637,791. In 1999, they had amounted to US$ 3,331,265, which represented an increase of 20 per cent compared with 1998, and was a continuation of the recent pattern of growth in contributions to the Fund. Another significant development has been advanced pledges for future years, for example, from the Government of the Netherlands, amounting to US$ 1,030,000. When this is taken into account, the rate of increase in contributions and pledges between 1998 and 1999 was 57 per cent. These additional funds have enabled the launching of several new activities and projects, described in this report.

44. While the increase in contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund is substantial in percentage terms, it has taken place on a very small resource base. A pressing need remains for further significant increases in contributions, so as to permit the implementation of the global programmes against corruption, trafficking in human beings and transnational organized crime, as well as the continued build-up of expertise and field presence in order to respond to the emerging challenges in a timely and effective manner.

IX. Programme questions

45. The General Assembly, at its fifty-fifth session, will approve the Organization's medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, which includes programme 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice. Consideration should be given to the continued inclusion of crime among the issues to be designated as priorities for the plan period. Moreover, the elaboration of the plan provides an opportunity to set forth the process of establishing indicative priorities for the programme, particularly in view of the preponderance of existing mandates and the limited availability of resources. In this respect, attention must be given to the new mandates and resource implications for the programme that would emanate from the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, and the expected adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, as well as the elaboration of an international instrument against corruption.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 10* (E/2000/30), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 10* (E/2000/30).

[3] Ibid., chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III.